

REMARKS:

In the Office Action dated August 11, 2006, claims 1, 8, 9, 11-13, 25, 27, 31 and 33, in the above-identified U.S. patent application were rejected. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-33 have been canceled and new claims 34-64 added to the application. Applicants point out that the method claims and composition claims all recite CG7956 and thus they share a special technical feature and should both be considered in the present application.

The office action indicates that the continuity data needs to be updated. Applicants point out that the continuity data was updated in the preliminary amendment filed on October 18, 2004. No further updates are believed to be required.

The office action indicates that the description of the drawings on the figures should be moved to the Brief Description of the Drawings section. The Brief Description of the Drawings has been amended to include any missing information which will be deleted from the figures. New figures are being prepared and will be filed shortly.

The disclosure was objected to due to the disclosure of sequences without SEQ ID NOS. Applicants direct the attention of the examiner to the Preliminary Amendment Filed on October 18, 2004. That Preliminary Amendment requested entry of appropriate Sequence Identifiers into the brief description of the figures. Specifically, the sequences in figures 3, 7A, 7B, 11B, 15B, 19A, 19B, 23A and 27 were identified with Sequence Identifiers. In addition, amended drawings, which were modified to include Sequence Identifiers for figures 11A and 15A, were supplied. A Sequence Listing was included with the aforementioned Amendment.

Claims 1 and 31 were objected to as directed to nonelected subject matter. Claims 1-

33 have been canceled and new claims added to the application. In view of the cancellation of claims 1-33, applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 11-13, 25, 27, 31 and 33 were rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement. As discussed above, claims 1-33 have been canceled and new claims added to the application. The new claims indicate that a CG7956 nucleic acid molecule or a polypeptide encoded thereby are administered to a patient. Applicants respectfully contend that the term “variant” is clear from the disclosure at page 40 of the present application. This disclosure indicates that “variants” are antisense constructions of dominantly negative forms of mutants of the genes according to the invention. The terms “effector/ modulator” and “functional fragment” are not included in the new claims. In view of these amendments, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 11-13 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC §112 second paragraph as indefinite. Claims 1-33 have been canceled and the new claims do not use the term “preferably” and recite positive method steps. In view of the cancellation of claims 1-33 and the addition of new claims to the application, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 8, 11, 12 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Nagase. The office action compares Nagase’s KIAA0966 DNA with NM_014937 as in the table on page 54 of the present application. The present claims administer CG7956 not the human homolog and thus the present claims are not anticipated by Nagase. In view of the above amendments and discussion, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Attached to the present response are test results which show that an inhibition of

the function of the target sac2 inhibits adipogenesis of 3T3-L1 cells. Compared to control empty vector transduced cells, triglyceride accumulation is significantly decreased during adipogenesis (Figure 1). Adipocyte markers such as PPAR-gamma and AP2 are decreased throughout adipogenesis (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5, respectively). Also, fatty acid uptake and insulin stimulated glucose uptake are decreased in mature adipocytes (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, respectively).

Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 34-64 are now in condition for allowance. If it is believed that the application is not in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the telephone number below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fee for such an extension together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

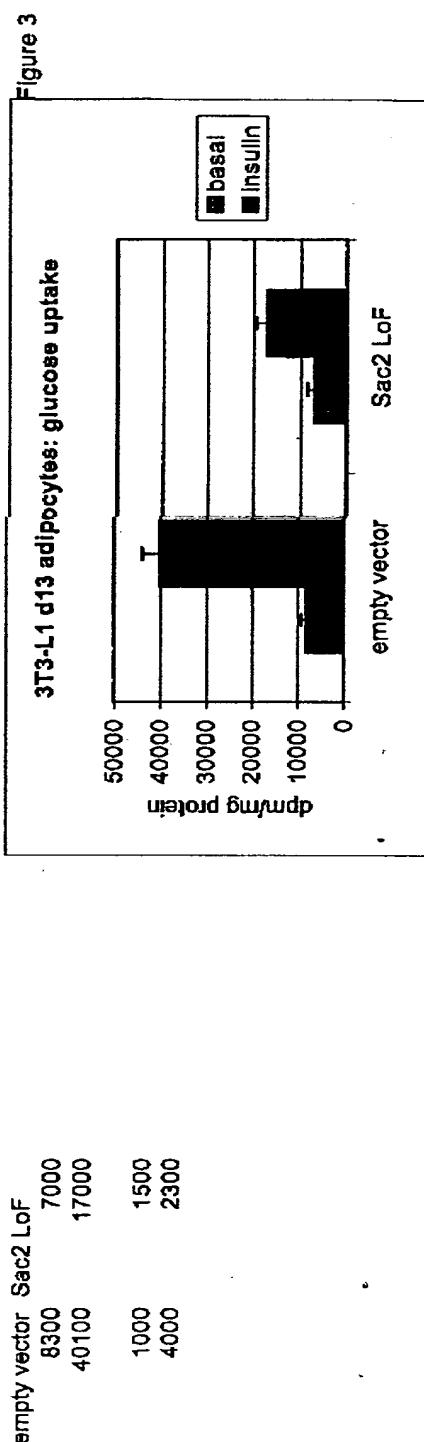
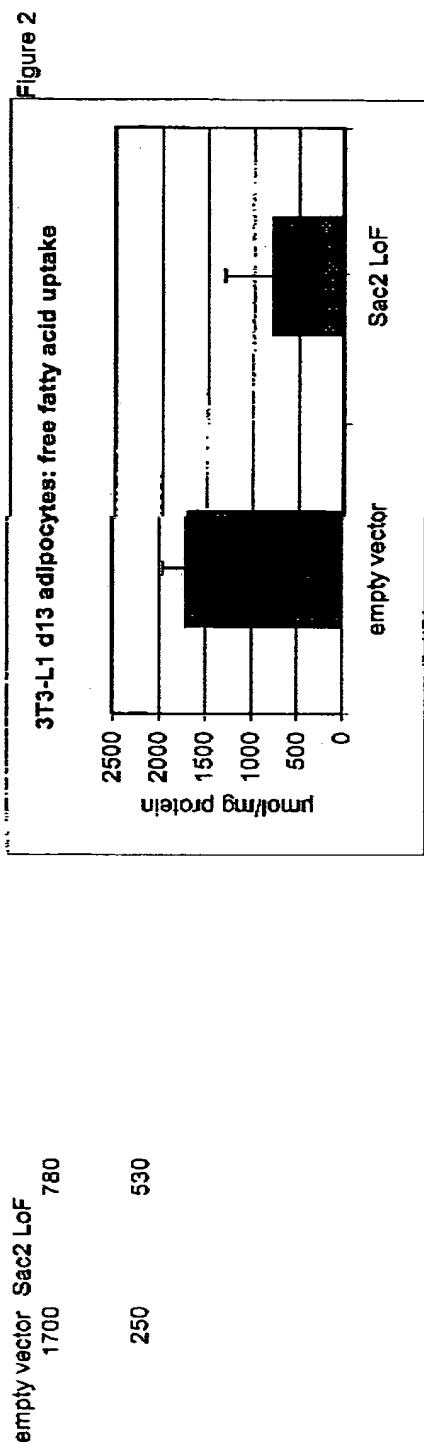
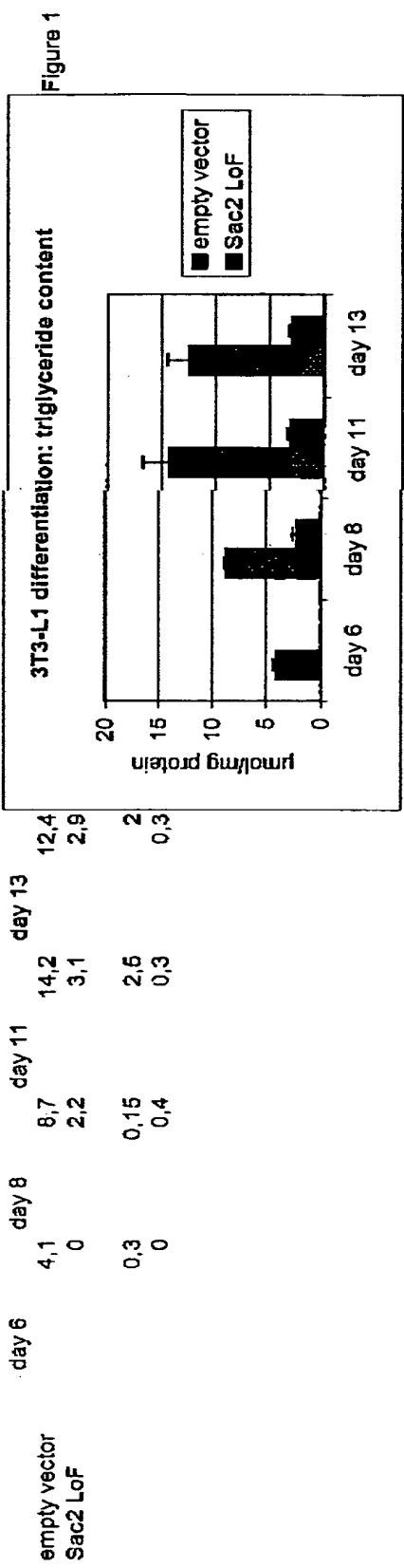
Respectfully submitted,

By



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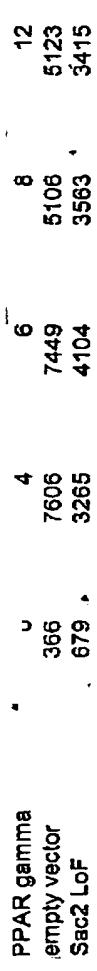


Figure 4

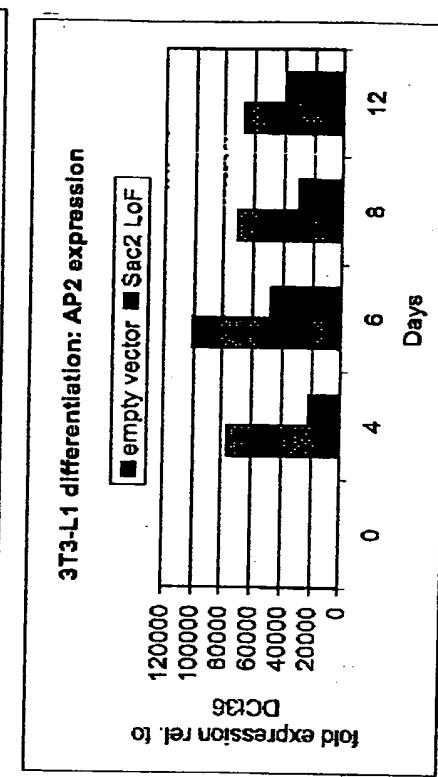
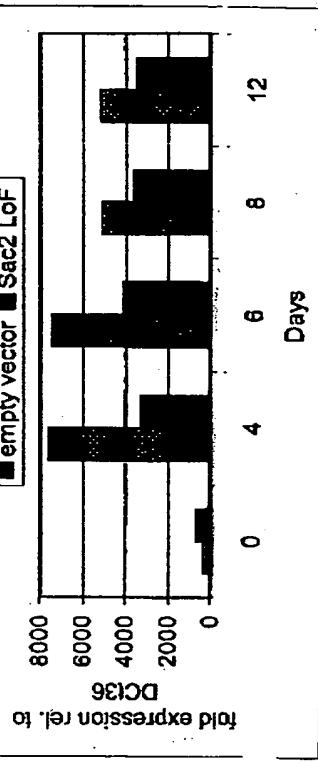


Figure 5

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